
Harmonizing Australian-US Electronic Warfare Requirements

By Kenneth J. Beebe, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF

Editorial Abstract: *The author reviews one of the first EW forums hosted by the new Joint Electronic Warfare Center. Combined and joint Australian & US forces examine current doctrine, modeling and simulation, as well as the newest technologies driving electronic warfare development efforts.*

The Joint Information Operations Center hosted the Australia/US Ministerial Defense Acquisition Committee (ADAC) Electronic Warfare (EW) Requirements Harmonization Working Group on 22-23 August, 2006. The EW Working Group is a subset of the overall ADAC Requirements Harmonization Working Group structure established by the two nations in July 2004 in an effort to provide a broad focus on US/Australia interoperability across all mission areas.

The conference in San Antonio was chaired by Mr. Jay Kister, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (OUSD AT&L) and Mr. Glen Wahlert, Director General Electronic Warfare from Australia's Defence Material Organisation. Mr. Bob Butler, JIOC Associate Director, and Colonel Mark Johnson, JIOC Deputy Director, hosted the conference on behalf of Major General Koziol. In attendance at the sessions were representatives from the US Army (Mr. Chris Glaze), Navy (RADM Mike Brown), and Air Force (Brig Gen Andrew Dichter). Attending for the Australians were representatives from the Army (Brigadier Stephen Dunn and Lt Col David Hay), Navy (Commander Craig Pritchard), and Air Force (Air



Australian and US Electronic Warfare teammates meet in San Antonio, Texas. (JIOC)



Australian Electronic Warriors in action. (MOD Australia)

Commodore John Oddie). Dr Len Sciacca represented the Australian EW and Radar Division.

Sessions on the first day of the conference provided an overview of current service EW technology and priorities, including a discussion of emerging technologies and priorities. LtCol Marc Magram, director of the Joint Electronic Warfare Center (JEWEC), briefed the group on the status of the center and its current efforts in support of the war fighter and to build a robust EW red team capability. Mr. Powell, JIOC J3 Technical Director, discussed initiatives that the JIOC is working on to support PACOM. The Air Force Information Warfare Center's 453rd Electronic Warfare Squadron provided an update brief on the emerging EW environment as well as future support concepts for EW modeling and simulation in support of wargaming. Following these stage setter presentations, briefers from the air, land, and sea services of each country presented their perspectives on the current status of their EW programs

and vision of the way EW will be used to support military operations in the future. A common thread in many of the briefings was the need for more coherent knowledge about the electromagnetic spectrum and the need for tools for command and control of this portion of the battlespace. The final session of the day was Dr Sciacca's discussion of current "technology drivers" and their impact on the future of EW systems, as well on the thrusts of EW development, which includes the networking of EW Support (ES) systems and distributed Electronic Attack (EA) systems.


On the second day of the event, the attendees discussed the way ahead on a number of issues highlighted during the previous day's briefs, including the need to share service and national EW roadmaps, to improve EW Battle Management and Spectrum Management tools, to enhance EW red teaming




US Electronic Warfare in action: EA-6B Prowler over the Arabian Gulf. (US Navy)

capabilities, and to expand EW Integrated Reprogramming databases and support. In a discussion about the development of a Joint EW planner's course, the need to create a coalition "releasable" course was highlighted as a way to improve coalition interoperability at the theater EW Coordination Cell.

For the JEWEC, hosting this conference provided a unique opportunity to be involved in improving EW implementation and coordination between the US and Australia. Many challenges face the US and Australian militaries as they

face increasingly complex operating environments, and EW is expected to play a vital role. The working group participants provided important perspectives on the future of EW and on how the JEWEC can best support the development of future capabilities. 



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